THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, with a view to curbing various along Indo-Nepal border, the Central Government has decided to deploy the Special Service Bureau (SSB) as the border guarding force for the Indo-Nepal border. The SSB has also been declared as the lead intelligence agency. Besides, the States affected by left wing extremist activities and those bordering Nepal have been requested to intensify patrolling of the areas bordering Nepal to prevent the ingress of Maoist elements.

Change in the name of Uttaranchal

†2212. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttaranchal Government has submitted any proposal to the Central Government with regard to change in the name of the State to Uttrakhand;

(b) if so, when this proposal was received;

(c) whether Government have accepted this proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) In April 2002, a proposal was received from the Government of Uttaranchal to change the name of the State to 'Uttarakhand'.

(c) and (d) The State of Uttrakhand came into being on 9.11.2000. The State was so named according to the will of the people as reflected through the deliberations of the Legislature of the erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh and, thereafter, of the Parliament of India while passing the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000. The proposal for change of name was found unwarranted.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.